

# ZERO BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC

DECEMBER 81

11 QSL BUREAU

SPRINGFIELD, MASS

ARRL AFFILIATED, 34th YEAR

## FOURTH ANNUAL HCRA-MTARA CHRISTMAS PARTY

EXCELLENT BAND, FINE FOOD, DOOR PRIZES, FUN FOR ALL

The time for our gala Christmas party is almost upon us. The party will be held Friday evening December 4, 1981 at the Holyoke Lodge of Elks. We have have obtained an excellent band (NOT THE SAME BAND AS LAST YEAR) and of course the food will be plentiful again this year.

The cocktail hour will be from 6:30 to 7:30, followed by dinner, dancing and door prize drawings until 1:00 am. Tickets may be obtained from the officers and board members of both the HCRA and MTARA.

In addition tickets will be available at the November 27 (day after Thanksgiving) Brown Baggers meeting. Also you may obtain tickets by sending a check for \$10 per ticket (made payable to Ron Beauchemin), and an SASE to:

Ron Beauchemin  
56 Acrebrook Drive  
Chicopee, Ma. 01020

No tickets will be sold after november 28, 1981.

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573 Union Street West Springfield, Ma. 01089

NOTE: NEW ADDRESS



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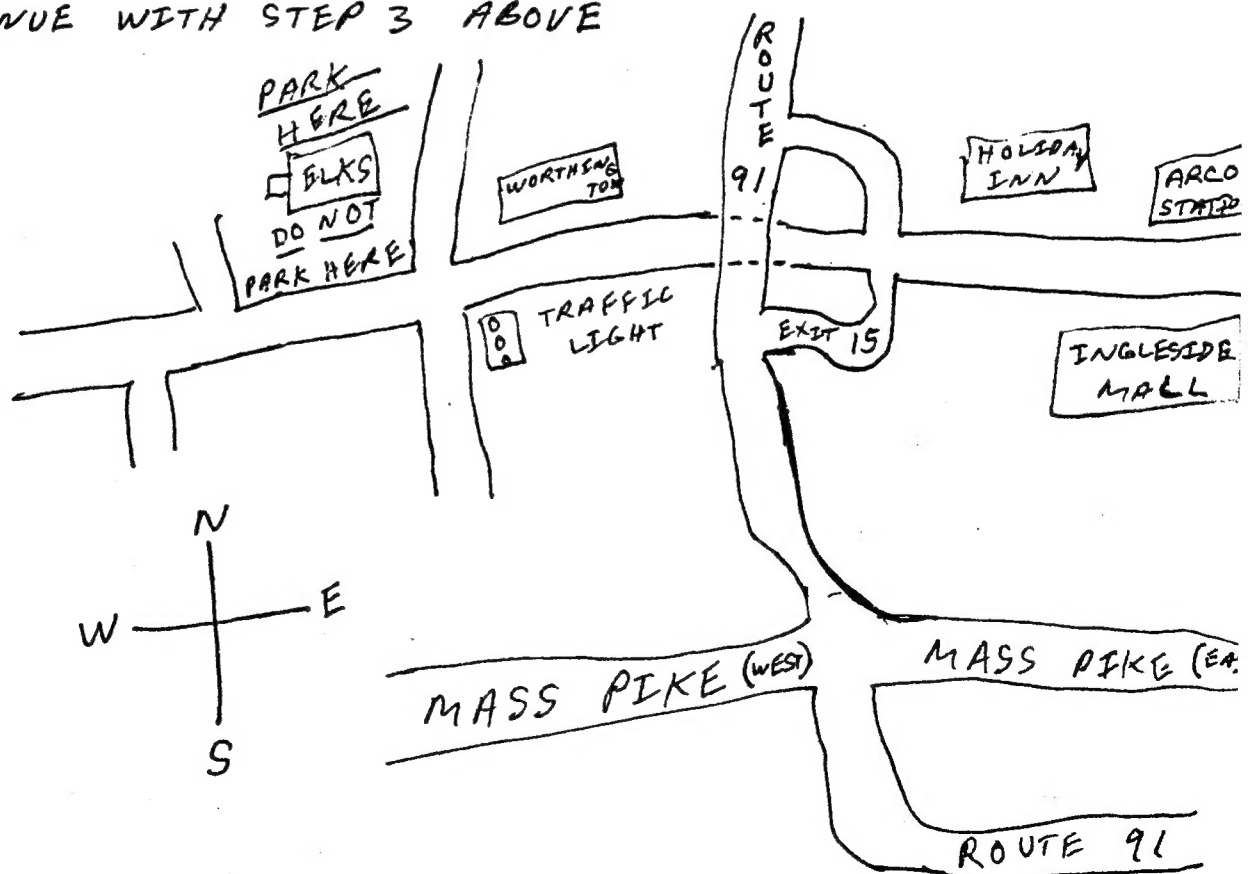
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## CHRISTMAS PARTY DIRECTIONS

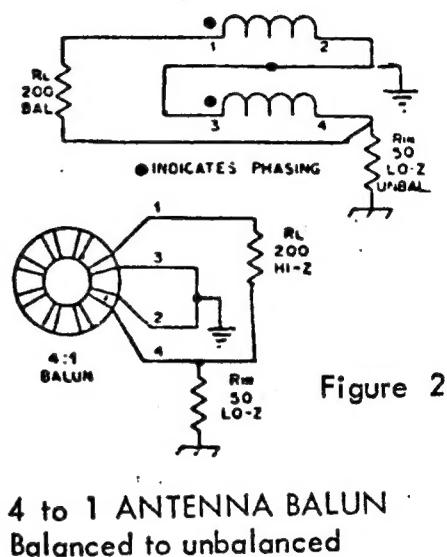
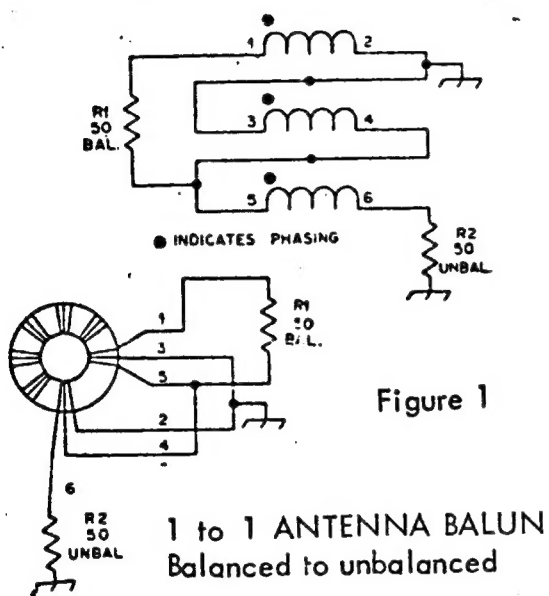
- ① FROM SOUTH OF HOLYOKE  
TAKE ROUTE 91 NORTH TO EXIT 15 (INGLESIDE)
- ② AT THE END OF THE EXIT TURN LEFT
- ③ AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHT GO STRAIGHT FOR ABOUT 100-200 YARDS  
TURN RIGHT DROP PASSENGERS OFF UNDER CANOPY PROCEED  
STRAIGHT AHEAD TO PARKING AREA
- ④ FROM EAST OR WEST OF HOLYOKE  
TAKE MASS. PIKE TO EXIT 4  
CONTINUE WITH STEP 1 ABOVE
- ⑤ FROM NORTH OF HOLYOKE  
TAKE ROUTE 91 SOUTH TO EXIT 15 (INGLESIDE)  
AT END OF THE EXIT TURN RIGHT  
CONTINUE WITH STEP 3 ABOVE



ANTENNA ANTICS

Our thanks to Bob, W1KUL, for spotting an error in the wiring diagram for the balun shown in the November issue of ZERO BEAT.

Shown below is the corrected diagram for the 1:1 balun and a new diagram for a 4:1 balun, courtesy of Amidon Associates.



The balun we wound used the above diagrams and works very well.

73's

Paul, W1ZKT

### FOR SALE:

35ASR teletype, ASCII, excellent condx. \$175.00

HRO-60 receiver, excellent, coils A-D, \$125.00  
and manual.

Call Gary Norman, AB1I, (203) 653-6373

BORN ON MARCONI'S DAY...

Two historic events occurred in 1903: Marconi bridged the Atlantic, and I was born. My father was in the cotton mills and I came to the United States as a wee babe of 11 months. Sons were expected to follow their father's trade, but the mills weren't for me. I fixed radios for the chief electrician and through him became an electrician. Then I started showing films- first the silent ones, then the talkies! During the Depression I made \$65.00 a week, a princely sum in those days.

We're getting ahead of ourselves- in 1917 I earned the signaling merit badge which included flags and morse code. At age 14 my pal went into the Navy and gave me his antenna and back issues of "Wireless Age". I built a loose coupler, and used Murdock condensers and plate and Murdock earphones. Had a cat whisker galena crystal to copy NAA in Arlington, Virginia. (now WWV) That was rare DX in those days! WLC New London was on 24 hours a day handling ship to shore traffic which I copied. Then came vacuum tubes; I first had an Audiotron then a UV 200 detector and UV 201 amp.

When WBZA began voice broadcasting in Springfield from the Westinghouse roof with a dipole strung between two towers, (can still be seen today!) I listened to their "on the air" tests in 1920.

Finally became W1KZ U in '37. Got on 160 'phone in 1938 and my cw went to hell. First store bought receiver was a Hallicrafter's SX 9! Earned WAS on December 1, 1939; WAC, April 1, 1940. In '38 I was running 100 watts with a pair of 809's. In '49 my first MOPA was on 21/2 meters.

After the war, Wes, W1LRE and myself built one of the first television sets in the area. Couldn't wait for channel six New Haven to come on the air. The excitement of seeing their test transmissions is still recalled. When they would broadcast a fight, it was standing room only as the neighbors came over with beer. We used BC 645 tubes which cost the government \$1500.00 new, but we bought them at surplus for \$9.99. Western Electric doorknob tubes at 65¢ were run with the plate red hot. I built an electronic organ from instructions on 450 Mhz, our private duplex phone line!

The HCRA 25th anniversary party was in 1972 with Paul K1PKZ, president, and Jack Sheehan K1JNC as VP. I recall Les Horner, Gordon Cavanaugh and Dick Stevens as the "bachelor boys", always attending the ARRL conventions. I made all of them for years. Have a Ripley's "Believe it or Not" about Jack Binns, who sent the first SOS, one of the first wireless ops! No relation to me, but I met his daughter years ago on Long Island.

Not too busy on the bands nowadays. Did work JA7BM on March 4, 1980, Heather and Bill's DXpedition. Heard Heather say she and Bill were going to climb the hill with 20 meter gear. It was a real thrill to me!

Al Jackson, W1OQB got me interested in OSCAR 6. I still get a thrill out of listening to each pass, ascending or descending, and heard Art, W1KK, last week.

I've been married to the same gal for the past 56 years. Lived in Feeding Hills the past 49. Glad to have been an HCRA member all these years, and to have seen how amateur radio has changed. Most of the Old Timers are now silent keys, but I'll say to all the new hams, "Keep up the good work!".



73,  
Bert Binns, W1KZ U

## TIDBITS

KALHTK is WlKK's son Ralph, FB...KALCRG has been promoted at his job...WlTM retiring...WlUPH has a new FR101S...WALZKT buying the Icom 730...WB1DBY at school in Boston... WALURB sends greetings to all his friends in Western Mass...HCRA Field Day score under 9A was 4,280 points!...N9AGV being transferred, good luck, Dave... Our new SCM is Bill Hall, WlJP, congrats...Who operates on 220 mhz in our area? How about an article about why it is worthwhile?... WALYCA bought a new house...

YOUR  
COPPER  
SPEED

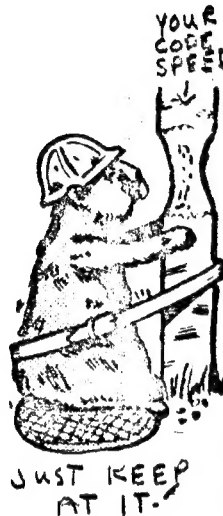
Been thinking of checking into the WMN but they are still too fast for you? Check this out!

The Empire Slow Speed Net (ESS) is a cw traffic and training net meeting daily at 6:00 pm local time, (EST or EDT, whichever is in effect) on 3590 khz. All stations, regardless of geographical location, are warmly invited to check in; we have had stations from Georgia to Nova Scotia.

Net operating speed is 10 words-per-minute.

ESS is an independent net, not formally affiliated with the National Traffic System (NTS); however, it follows standard net procedures and many of its members also participate in NTS section nets. (Like Western Mass Net!) — thus, messages for all parts of the U.S. and Canada can be accepted.

If you are interested in learning net procedure and traffic handling, or just want to join a group of friendly and helpful operators, ranging from neophyte to old timer, please drop in on the ESS. To help the new member, review the operating signals listed elsewhere in this issue of Zero Beat. No station should hesitate to check in due to lack of experience! Contact the net manager, W2WSS, Pete Gellert, 1049 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10028 for more information.



## MORE TIDBITS!!

WlHDQ gave an excellent talk on propagation at the November meeting. Well attended, with about 80 of us meeting in the church...K1BUB delving more into radio astronomy. How about a ZB article, Bob?

WlJWV listed as the "Operator of the month" in October '64 QST... WlKK, K1BE attended League officials meeting in Merimack, N.H. to discuss long range goals and planning for the ARRL. Very informative with John Sullivan and Harry Dannals there too... Eric Kress started to study for his novice...WALDNB enjoying his retirement...WALPUX busy playing with the under \$200 dollar computer he put together. It gets RTTY, and copies code. Bruce promises to send an article in soon...WALPGT is into the commercial computers. Have you gotten it to watch the kids yet, Jerry? ... Instead of tossing Zero Beat in the trash after you've read it, pass it along to a friend or send it out with your QSL card!



### ACTIVITIES

People join a radio club to get in on the fun a group can have. One old timer was heard complaining that after he'd talked to a club officer at a meeting, "He had the impression the guy didn't even know who he was!". Of course no one knows who you are if you never show up at meetings and never participate. How would anyone ever get to meet you???

Attending the meetings is a big part of being in the HCRA. Other things to get into are the various club activities. The VHF Sweepstakes in January is well known to all. Field day is a low-key fun weekend. How do you feel about competing as a club in the ARRL International DX competition? The club tried it two years ago and a lot of members got on and operated, but only three could muster the energy to mail their logs into the league! The HCRA was ranked 37th in the country, being beat by giants in the DX contest like Podunk Hollow ARC. If we enter something like that, we should always try to place in the top ten. Let's hear from those who want to participate! Send in a note to Zero Beat and we'll see if we have "two fisted beer drinkers" in the club.

What else should the HCRA go after this year? The auction is in October, we've got the December party, then January SS, May flea market, and the June banquet. Should we run licensing classes? Who'll do the work? Should we participate in Field Day? In Middlefield or elsewhere? What topics do you want covered at the meetings? Our 35th anniversary is in 1983, are we going to do something special? Are there any members interested in getting ATV going in a big way in Western Mass? OSCAR? Let us hear your thoughts and ideas!!!!!!

### CHASING (AND CATCHING!) DX

By Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ

My serious interest in amateur radio started during the fall of 1954 with a small group in the East Control Lab at Monsanto. We thought it would be great if we could construct power line transmitters and be able to communicate with each other. After some investigation we discovered the limitations of the power line transmitters and realized that it would not be possible to transmit our voices beyond the nearest pole transformer. Our interest was not dampened since one individual obtained information about a Novice Class amateur radio license that required only the basic knowledge of the code and electronics. We all started studying the code and the ARRL license manual and within two months time we all passed the novice test. I received my Novice license in December 1954 (W1DGJ) and when my license arrived I had my station ready to go on the air. The receiver was a Halli-crafters S-38 and a home-made transmitter consisting of a single 6v6 oscillator/output, with maybe a couple of watts input. The antenna was an end-fed piece of wire about 50 feet long, and since SWR wasn't even in my vocabulary, I didn't worry about it!





I was able to make contacts easily on 80 meters and soon found that my signals were reaching further and further West. I was doing quite well until one evening when I called CQ and got an answer from a station whose fist was so strange that I could not understand the call letters. It took many QRSs and QRSS before I determined that the ham was a VE1 in Canada and not the usual W or K prefix that I was accustomed to copying. That was the start of my interest in DX.

By spring I was tempted to try for the General Class license so that I could use voice. My first trip to Boston was a disappointment since I was not fully prepared with the code and had to make a repeat trip a month later. In the meantime I got a lot of local advice on "how to pass the FCC exam". One suggestion was to visit a nearby bar for a couple of stiff ones to calm the nerves, another suggested not to copy the three Vs at the beginning of the test since the advisor did just that and then froze completely with only the three Vs on his page!

When I received my General Class license I was very interested in operating ten meters since I was told that it was a band that allowed world wide communications with low powered transmitters. I built a transmitter with a 6L46 final that band switched 80 to 10 meters and bought a used Hallicrafter's S-20R receiver that had a band spread on 10 meters. I could hear the locals OK with my folded dipole antenna but I could never seem to hear the skip stations everyone talked about. One Saturday I was visiting W1NY in Wilbraham and he turned his receiver on 10 meters and the W6s and W7s were stronger than most locals I was used to listening to. I couldn't wait to get home and turn my receiver on to see if it was capable of hearing the skip and to my amazement the stations were loud and clear. I found that 10 meters provided many types of propagation conditions and it was possible to contact any area of the world if you had the patience to wait for the proper conditions. In 1957 I moved up to a Heathkit DX-100 and a National NC-300 receiver. I was able to contact over 100 countries on 10 meters with a 3 element beam and got my DXCC certificate in 1959.

I've always felt that my biggest interest was in talking with DX stations. I continued to try and work every new country that I heard. Working DX was most enjoyable between 150 and 250 countries since at that level you are experienced enough to know what its all about and by going on the air most of the time when the band is open you could expect to hear a new country on. Beyond the 250 level you have to start "stalking" the needed countries by obtaining their operating habits from one source or another.

After qualifying for a number of certificates such as: DXCC, WAS, WAC, WAZ, etc I started collecting awards from different countries and ended up with over 100. About this time I passed the First Class Commercial license test and felt that now was the time to try for the EXtra Class amateur license. It didn't provide any incentive then but a short time later the incentive licensing program did allow special privileges for this license class.

I finally worked up to the "top shelf" equipment and purchased a Collins S-line, 30L-1 amplifier and a good mono-band beam for twenty meters, inverted Vs on 40 and 80 with the DXCC honor roll as my goal. Now I had my finger on the DX with only a very few countries that I had to contact. I tried SSTV and the biggest kick was to see my own pictures that I had transmitted to Hawaii on the long path over Africa retransmitted back to me, a trip of 40,000 miles! I made DXCC on SSTV by exchanging pictures with over 100 different countries.

Working DX and having a "DX capable" station provided many interesting contacts that remain with me: Running a phone patch from the hospital ship "Repose" off the coast of Vietnam to a Chicopee family who had just received a telegram telling of their son being wounded and hearing their relief when they could talk directly with him and hear that he was OK!; Daily schedules with anthropologist Thor Hyerdahl's expeditions on reed rafts across the Atlantic and in the Persian Gulf area; Emergency messages from earthquake victims in Italy; and hurricane victims in Haiti. I've made many friends, some I correspond with including a Russian ambassador to Mongolia, the ex King of Sikkim, and the King of Jordan.

In 1979 I finally contacted a station operating from Bouvet Island in the South Atlantic to complete my DXCC. I took me 25 years to work 344 countries, but I enjoyed the challenge. Now I can say that I have contacted every country in the world!

FOR SALE ALL MINT

73,  
Mike WLDGJ

1 - FT101E E/W ALL CRYSTALS,  
PROCESSOR, HAND MIKE, ALL CABLES, AM FILTER,  
ORIGINAL CARTON AND MANUAL  
1 - YAESU DIGITAL DISPLAY W/MANUAL  
1 - IC2-AT H.T. E/W TT PAD, B.H.,  
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Bill W1MDL  
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HEADQUARTERS SOCIETY OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A. 06111

## EDITORS NOTE

don't miss this Jan. meeting

HARRY J. DANNALS  
W2HD, PRESIDENT  
CARL L. SMITH  
W2BWJ, FIRST VICE PRES  
LARRY E. PRICE  
W4RA, VICE PRES  
MAX ARNOLD  
W4WHN, VICE PRES  
NOEL B. EATON  
VE3CJ, VICE PRES  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
JAMES E. MCCOBB  
K1LLU, TREASURER  
RICHARD L. BALDWIN  
W1RU, SEC. & GEN. MGR  
203-666-1541

**QST**  
OFFICIAL JOURNAL

October 29, 1981

Mr. Malcolmb Gesner, WB1CLO  
520 Amherst Road  
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Malcolmb:

Thanks for the call today. I am looking forward to meeting you and the Hampden County Radio Assoc. on January 8. Per your request here is a brief summary of my Amateur Radio experience.

I was first licensed in 1960 as KN8UDJ. Since then I have held, in addition to the novice license, technician, general, advanced and now have an amateur extra class license. I have been active on all bands 160 thru 2 meters. My interests in Amateur Radio are broad, but these days I am only QRV on 160 thru 10 meters with cw the preferred mode.

I had the call TI2DX in 1973 and HC1CW from 1973 through 1975. (Had TVI with landlord in TI and HC!).

My professional background has been mostly broadcasting with some two-way radio and teaching. Last June I started work at ARRL as an Asst. Technical Editor. My last assignment was as editor of the 2nd edition of the RFI Book. I am currently working under Jerry Hall, K1TD, on a new edition of the ARRL Antenna Book.

Looking forward to seeing you in January.

Sincerely,

C. L. "Chuck" Hutchinson, K8CH  
Asst. Technical Editor

CLH/msa

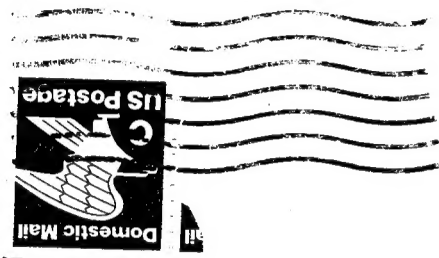
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ZERO BEAT

AC1T 10/82

DECEMBER 1981 ZERO BEAT



EAST LONGMEADOW, MASS. 01028

97 BROOKHAVEN DR.

RAY MORIN, KAICRG, EDITOR

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## Calendar for 1981-82

### Club Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Dec. 4	Christmas Party	Ron WB1ETS	
Jan. 8	R.F.I.	Malcolm WB1CLO	K8CH CHUCK
Feb. 5	Linear Amps	Dick N3BQU	Gent WA1CQF
Mar. 5	International DX	Steve WA1EYF	BILL Poellnitz K1MM
Apr. 2	VHF, UHF, & Moonbounce	John AC1T	David Olean K1WHS
May 7	Flea Market	Larry K1GXU	
June 4	Banquet	Ron WB1ETS	